

REMARKS

This paper is presented in response to the Office Action mailed June 30, 2008. Claims 7, 22, and 23 are amended. Claims 1-8 and 10-30 are now pending.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments to the claims and the following remarks. For the Examiner's convenience and reference, Applicant's remarks are presented in the order in which the corresponding issues were raised in the Office Action.

I. Objection to Claim 22

The Examiner has objected to claim 22 in particular, on various formal grounds. Claim 22 has been amended in the manner suggested by the Examiner in the Office Action and claim 22 is now believed to be in allowable condition.

II. Allowed Subject Matter

The Examiner's indication that claims 1-8, 10-21 and 23-30 are allowed and that claim 22 would be allowable upon the correction of an informality is appreciated. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the careful review and allowance of those claims.

Applicant submits the following comments concerning the Examiner's statements of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter in the Office Action. In general, Applicant agrees with the Examiner that the inventions to which claims 1-8 and 10-30 are directed are patentable over the cited references, but respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance as set forth in the Office Action.

Particularly, Applicant submits that it is improper to characterize a single limitation, or subset of limitations, as constituting the basis for allowance of a claim. Rather, the patentability of a claim is properly determined with reference to the claim as a whole. Accordingly, Applicant does not concede that the reasons for allowable subject matter given by the Examiner are the only reasons that make, or would make, claims 1-8 and 10-30 allowable and Applicant does not make any admission or concession concerning the Examiner's statements in the Office Action concerning the allowability of claims 1-8 and 10-30 in view of the cited references.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks submitted herein, Applicant respectfully submits that each of the pending claims 1-8 and 10-30 is in condition for allowance. Therefore, reconsideration of the objections and rejections is requested and allowance of those claims is respectfully solicited. In the event that the Examiner finds any remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that could be clarified in a telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to initiate the same with the undersigned attorney.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any of the following fees that may be applicable to this communication, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 23-3178: (1) any filing fees required under 37 CFR § 1.16; and/or (2) any patent application and reexamination processing fees under 37 CFR § 1.17.

Dated this 29th day of August 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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